



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, August 19, 2024, 6:30 P.M.
Public Comment In-Person/Telephone
Art Pick Council Chambers – City Hall
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair, Mohammad Noor, Ward 5
Kevin Dawson, Ward 2
Tracy Barlogio, Citywide-Ward 5
Thomas Miller, Ward 6
Barry Johnson, Ward 7

Commissioners Absent: Chair, Matt Friedlander, Ward 4
Chad Young, Ward 1

Department Staff Present: Pamela Galera, Director
Noemi Lopez, Deputy Director
Anthony Zamora, Deputy Director
Ebony Perkins, Recreation Supervisor
Nicolas Avila, Recreation Supervisor
Steven Perez, Recreation Services Coordinator
Sandra Campbell, Sr. Administrative Assistant

Vice Chair Noor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Romo (Ward 1) – Expressed concerns with the Reid Park restrooms.

PRESENTATIONS

AQUATICS UPDATE

Deputy Director Anthony Zamora introduced Recreation Supervisor Ebony Perkins who presented an overview of the aquatics program then introduced Recreation Services Coordinator Steven Perez who delivered more details on the 2024 aquatics season.

Commissioner Dawson asked if there were any needs or wants. Also asked if there were issues of the condition of the facility, equipment, training, or personnel.

Recreation Services Coordinator Perez stated concern of the condition of the pools due to age and exposure to the natural elements. Also stated that staff works closely with the Parks Division maintenance crew who have been addressing maintenance and deferred maintenance issues.

Commissioner Dawson asked if there were any safety issues and if there was an annual program

review for safety issues.

Recreation Services Coordinator Perez stated that concerns are noted and addressed during the annual off-season a walk through, or addressed immediately if there is a safety concern. Walk throughs are also done prior to the following season to ensure everything is up to standard.

FACILITY USER GROUPS

Deputy Director Anthony Zamora introduced Recreation Supervisor Nicolas Avila who oversees Facilities Section and delivered a presentation on facility usage.

Commissioner Dawson asked what are the issues with the restrooms at Reid Park.

Recreation Supervisor Avila stated Facilities works closely with the Parks Division to ensure all maintenance needs and concerns are met.

Deputy Director Zamora stated that extensive repairs at the Reid Park restroom have been completed and that there have not been any issues in several months. The little league has keys and regulates access to the restroom to reduce over usage.

Commissioner Dawson asked if maintenance is being kept up so that deferred maintenance costs are reduced since there are no funds to build new restroom.

Deputy Director Zamora stated that regular maintenance is part of the ongoing overview to the restrooms. The Parks team enhances the appearance of the restrooms when possible.

Commissioner Dawson asked if outside group fees are being charged adequately to cover wear and tear on the facilities.

Commissioner Barlogio inquired about updates on the courts such as pickleball, tennis and basketball.

Recreation Supervisor Avila stated that pickleball, tennis and basketball courts are not as heavily used as the multi-use fields.

Commissioner Noor asked if our fees are less than neighboring cities and if a fee study has been conducted.

Recreation Supervisor Avila stated we do charge less than neighboring cities, and that studies can be done in the future to ensure this.

Commissioner Noor asked if there are any surveys for organizations that use the fields.

Recreation Supervisor Avila stated typically the organization will reach out to the Facilities Coordinator as well as field monitors with suggestions. There is also an online form to submit feedback.

Deputy Director Zamora also stated that there is an opportunity for the user groups to provide input during the twice a year field allocation meeting.

Commissioner Miller asked what kind of feedback has been received from the large tournaments

such as Triple Crown, specifically on the Reid Park restrooms.

Recreation Supervisor Avila stated that Triple Crown is required to provide portable restrooms and there has not been huge concerns with the Reid Park restrooms.

Commissioner Miller asked if there has been any issues with the copper wiring theft in any of the ball parks.

Recreation Supervisor Avila stated yes at multiple locations. It is a huge issue.

Commissioner Noor asked if the larger organizations are all required to bring in portable restrooms.

Recreation Supervisor Avila confirmed that portable restrooms at ballfields are only required for tournaments.

Commissioner Dawson asked if the copper wire or precious metals theft is being tracked month by month. What are the tools to put in place to deter, detect and prevent.

Deputy Director Zamora stated it is being tracked. To deter it, we work with the Police Department and let them know when there is an issue. Additional patrol is requested and then the access point is reinforced.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matter, presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on the consent calendar for consideration, was approved by a motion affirming the action appropriate to the item:

MINUTES

The minutes of July 15, 2024, were approved without amendments.

Motion: Miller
Second: Barlogio
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN SIX MONTH REVIEW

Vice Chair Noor reviewed the outcome of the four tasks of the 2024 Park and Recreation Work Plan with all Commissioners.

Vice Chair Noor stated in reference to task # 4, is there anything the Commissioners can do to advocate for additional funding.

Director Pamela Galera thanked the Commissioners and stated that because of the Commission’s advocacy, we have received Deferred Maintenance funds from ARPA and Measure Z funding.

Following the discussion, a motion was made to accept the Park and Recreation Commission Review of the Work Plan.

Motion: Barlogio
Second: Johnson
Ayes: All

COMMUNICATIONS

UPDATES OF EVENTS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS

None at this time.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Dawson would like an update on Fairmount Park.

Commissioner Dawson would like an update on security.

Vice Chair Noor would like to discuss how Commissioners can advocate on ongoing issues.

Commissioner Dawson would like a discussion on HVAC resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Pamela Galera shared good news regarding Fairmount Park:

- Dredging of the lake will take place soon and there will be paddle boats at Lake Evens in a few weeks.
- RFP has gone out for the Fairmount Park Master Plan.
- There are two boxing tournaments at the Armory
 - Saturday, August 24, 2024
 - Saturday, September 7, 2024
- Staff is preparing an RFP soliciting a private vendor to activate the Armory building at Fairmount Park.

Commissioner Dawson shared that the Press Enterprise ran an article announcing the \$2.5 million-dollar federal funding award from Congressman Mark Takano’s office to rehabilitate the Armory.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2024.

Vice Chair Noor adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDRA D. CAMPBELL
Sr. Administrative Assistant